

ARUBA
TODAY

Saturday
March 16, 2024

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Aruba's ONLY English newspaper

The history and meaning of the Aruban florin

A collage of Aruban florin banknotes (200, 100, 50, 25). The page number "Page 7" is at the bottom right.

Prosecutor leaves Georgia election case against Trump after relationship with district attorney

By KATE BRUMBACK and ALANNA DURKIN RICHER
Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — A special prosecutor who had a romantic relationship with Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis formally withdrew Friday from the Georgia election interference case against Donald Trump after a judge ruled he had to leave or Willis couldn't continue to pursue the charges.

Attorney Nathan Wade's resignation allows Willis to remain on the most sprawling of four criminal cases against the presumptive Republican nominee in the 2024 presidential election.

But the long-term damage to the public perception of the prosecution remains unclear, particularly in light of Trump's relentless barrage of attacks on the pair who pledged to hold Trump accountable but found their own actions under a public microscope.



Special prosecutor Nathan Wade looks on during a hearing on the Georgia election interference case, Friday, March, 1, 2024, in Atlanta.

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Associated Press

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT 7 DAYS A WEEK

PROFESSIONAL COMPLIMENTARY PICTURES ON TUESDAY AND FRIDAY

SUNDAY: MARRYBELL MADURO SINGER 6:30 - 8:30pm	MONDAY: ANGELA FLORES VIOLINIST 6:30 - 8:30pm	TUESDAY: JEAN PAUL SAXOPHONIST 6:30 - 8:30pm	WEDNESDAY: EDDIE KROON SINGER 4:00 - 6:00pm MAILLEYN ALVARADO VIOLINIST 6:30 - 8:30pm KARAOKE 9:00 - 11:00pm	THURSDAY: MARRYBELL MADURO SINGER 6:30 - 8:30pm	FRIDAY: RICKY THOMAS GUITARIST 7:00 - 9:00pm	SATURDAY: EDDIE KROON SINGER 4:00 - 6:00pm ANGELA FLORES VIOLINIST 6:30 - 8:30pm
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The flag of Aruba is shown on the left. Below it are three circular images: a flamingo, a tree, and a boat.

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Freeplay

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THE CASINO
ARUBA

Supreme Court rules public officials can sometimes be sued for blocking critics on social media

By **MARK SHERMAN**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A unanimous Supreme Court ruled Friday that public officials can sometimes be sued for blocking their critics on social media, an issue that first arose for the high court in a case involving then-President Donald Trump.

Justice Amy Coney Barrett, writing for the court, said that officials who use personal accounts to make official statements may not be free to delete comments about those statements or block critics altogether.

On the other hand, Barrett wrote, "State officials have private lives and their own

constitutional rights."

The court ruled in two cases involving lawsuits filed by people who were blocked after leaving critical comments on social media accounts belonging to school board members in Southern California and a city manager in Port Huron, Michigan, northeast of Detroit. They are similar to a case involving Trump and his decision to block critics from his personal account on Twitter, now known as X. The justices dismissed the case after Trump left office in January 2021.

The cases forced the court to deal with the competing free speech rights of public officials and their constituents, all in a rapidly evolving



The Supreme Court is seen in Washington, March 7, 2024.

Associated Press

virtual world. They are among five social media cases on the court's docket this term.

Appeals courts in San Fran-

cisco and Cincinnati had reached conflicting decisions about when personal accounts become official, and the high court did not embrace either ruling, returning the cases to the appeals courts to apply the standard the justices laid out Friday.

"When a government official posts about job-related topics on social media, it can be difficult to tell whether the speech is official or private," Barrett said. Officials must have the authority to speak on behalf of their governments and intend to use it for their posts to be regarded essentially as the government's, Barrett wrote. In such cases, they have to allow criticism, or risk being sued, she wrote.

In one case, James Freed, who was appointed the

Port Huron city manager in 2014, used the Facebook page he first created while in college to communicate with the public, as well as recount the details of daily life.

In 2020, a resident, Kevin Lindke, used the page to comment several times from three Facebook profiles, including criticism of the city's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Freed blocked all three accounts and deleted Lindke's comments. Lindke sued, but the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals sided with Freed, noting that his Facebook page talked about his roles as "father, husband, and city manager."

The other case involved two elected members of a California school board, the Poway Unified School District Board of Trustees. The members, Michelle O'Connor-Ratcliff and T.J. Zane, used their personal Facebook and Twitter accounts to communicate with the public. Two parents, Christopher and Kimberly Garner, left critical comments and replies to posts on the board members' accounts and were blocked. The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said the board members had violated the parents' free speech rights by doing so. Zane no longer serves on the school board. □

At our celebration of our National Flag and Anthem day, we unite in the promise for collective work, promoting the wellness of our island.

Our perseverance and progress creates an ambiance where our people prosper, transmitting the beauty of our island, our people and our visitors.

Together we will flourish, reaching prosperity and harmony.

Happy National Flag and Anthem Day!

Feliz Dia
**DI NOS HIMNO
Y BANDERA**

ARUBA ARUBA TOURISM
AUTHORITY

In conjunction with the national holiday Himno y Bandera (Day of the National Anthem and Flag), Aruba Today will not be published on Monday, March 18th, 2024. We will resume our regular printing schedule on Tuesday, March, 19th, 2024.



Prosecutor leaves Georgia election case against Trump after relationship with district attorney

Continued from Front Page

Wade offered his resignation in a letter to Willis, saying he was doing so "in the interest of democracy, in dedication to the American public and to move this case forward as quickly as possible."

"I am sure that the case, and the team, will be in good hands moving forward and justice will be served," Wade wrote.

Willis complimented Wade's "professionalism and dignity" in a letter accepting his resignation, effective immediately. She said he had endured threats against himself and his family, as well as "unjustified attacks" in the media and in court on his reputation as a lawyer.

"I will always remember — and will remind everyone — that you were brave enough to step forward and take on the investigation and prosecution of the allegations that the defendants in this case engaged in a conspiracy to overturn Georgia's 2020 Presidential Election," Willis wrote. Trump's team felt differently.

An attorney for the former president said they respected the court's decision but believe the judge "did not afford appropriate significance to the prosecutorial misconduct of Willis and Wade."

"We will use all legal options available as we continue to fight to end this case, which should never have been brought in the first place," Trump attorney Steve Sadow said.

Defense attorneys could try to appeal the ruling, but they would need the judge's permission to do so. The resignation came hours after Fulton County Superior Court Judge Scott McAfee said Wade had to be removed or Willis must step aside from the case. McAfee did not find that Willis' relationship with Wade amounted to a conflict of interest but said the allegations created an "appearance of impropri-



Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis looks on during a hearing on the Georgia election interference case, Friday, March, 1, 2024, in Atlanta.

Associated Press

ety" that infected the prosecution team.

"As the case moves forward, reasonable members of the public could easily be left to wonder whether the financial exchanges have continued resulting in some form of benefit to the District Attorney, or even whether the romantic relationship has resumed," the judge wrote.

"Put differently, an outsider could reasonably think that the District Attorney is not exercising her independent professional judgment totally free of any compromising influences. As long as Wade remains on the case, this unnecessary perception will persist."

Friday's extraordinary developments underscored the extent to which the case that began with allegations that a former president tried to undermine the will of the people who voted him out of the White House had become consumed by talk of the love lives of its top prosecutors. In accepting Wade's resignation, Willis made clear her determination to turn

the page from weeks of embarrassing headlines about romantic getaways, sex and stashes of cash that have dominated the coverage of the case.

Willis hired Wade in 2021 to lead the team to investigate and ultimately prosecute Trump and 18 others on charges that they illegally tried to overturn his narrow loss to Democrat Joe Biden in Georgia in 2020. The case uses a statute normally associated with mobsters to accuse the former president, lawyers and other aides of a "criminal enterprise" to keep him in power.

Trump, the Republicans' presumptive presidential nominee for 2024, has denied doing anything wrong and pleaded not guilty.

Willis and Wade testified at a hearing last month that they had engaged in a romantic relationship, but they rejected the idea that Willis improperly benefited from it, as lawyers for Trump and some of his co-defendants alleged. Willis and Wade insisted they didn't begin dating until after he

became special prosecutor, though a former friend and employee of Willis' testified that she saw the pair hugging and kissing before he was hired.

Willis and Wade said the relationship ended in the summer of 2023. They both said that Willis either paid for things herself or used cash to reimburse Wade for travel expenses.

McAfee wrote that there was insufficient evidence that Willis had a personal stake in the prosecution. And he said he was unable to "conclusively establish by a preponderance of the evidence" whether Willis and Wade began dating before or after he was hired as special prosecutor.

"However, an odor of mendacity remains," the judge wrote. He said "reasonable questions" about whether Willis and Wade testified truthfully about the timing of their relationship "further underpin the finding of an appearance of impropriety and the need to make proportional efforts to cure it." Even so, he said, dismissal of the case was not the

appropriate remedy to "adequately dissipate the financial cloud of impropriety and potential untruthfulness found here."

An attorney for co-defendant Michael Roman was the first to ask McAfee to dismiss the indictment and prevent Willis and Wade and their offices from continuing to prosecute the case. The attorney, Ashleigh Merchant, alleged that Willis paid Wade large sums for his work and then improperly benefited from the prosecution of the case when Wade used his earnings to pay for vacations for the two of them.

Merchant said in a statement Friday that while Roman's team maintains that the judge should have disqualified Willis' office entirely, the judge clearly agreed with the defense that there is a "risk to the future of this case" if Willis "doesn't quickly work to cure her conflict."

The ruling comes days after the judge dismissed three of 13 counts against Trump in the indictment and an additional three counts against other people. The judge said prosecutors failed to allege sufficient detail regarding the nature of the allegations related to soliciting public officers to violate their oaths. However, the bulk of the 41-count indictment remains intact, and the judge said prosecutors could seek a new indictment to try to reinstate the charges he dismissed. One dismissed count stemmed from a phone call Trump made to Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger, a fellow Republican, on Jan. 2, 2021, in which Trump urged Raffensperger to "find 11,780 votes" for him to win the election in the state.

Of the 19 people originally charged in the indictment, four have pleaded guilty after reaching deals with prosecutors. They include prominent Trump allies and attorneys Sidney Powell and Kenneth Chesebro. □

Tornadoes kill 3 and leave trails of destruction in the central U.S.

By **JOSHUA A. BICKEL and JOHN SEEWER**

Associated Press

LAKEVIEW, Ohio (AP) —

Blaine Schmidt sifted through the broken glass and splintered wood throughout his Ohio home Friday, salvaging a guitar and a bundle of diapers.

His couch and a crib had been ripped apart by one of many tornadoes that tore through the central U.S., killing three people and injuring dozens more. The storm peeled open his living room wall, but at least the house was standing. The one next door was flattened.

"I'm lucky to be alive," Schmidt said hours after he and his roommate took shelter in a bathtub, using the shower curtain to protect them from flying window glass.

Thursday night's storms left trails of destruction across parts of Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana and Arkansas. About 40 people were injured and dozens of homes were damaged in one Indiana community. Tornadoes were also reported in Illinois and Missouri.

The Indian Lake area in Ohio's Logan County was one of the hardest hit. Three people died in the county northwest of Columbus, said Sheriff Randy Dodds. Much of the damage was in the villages of Russells Point and Lakeview, where



Debris scatters the ground near damaged homes following a severe storm Friday, March 15, 2024, in Lakeview, Ohio.

Schmidt lives. The villages are dotted with cottages owned by people who come for fishing and boating.

Search crews and cadaver dogs didn't find any more victims Friday after going into neighborhoods that had been blocked by gas leaks and fallen trees overnight, Dodds said.

"When you see this damage, you'll be surprised it was only three," the sheriff said.

Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine, who assessed the damage and met with residents, said it was fortunate the storm

did not hit on a summer weekend.

Sandy Smith took shelter with her family in a laundry room of their Lakeview home after hearing the storm sirens. Seconds later, they heard debris batter the house. Her husband watched the garage blow away.

She went upstairs to rescue their cat who was trapped under a bookshelf. As soon she came back down, the roof collapsed.

A campground, an RV park and a laundromat were among the many businesses damaged. The storm

produced fires in some spots and draped power lines through home windows, said Amber Fagan, president of the local chamber of commerce.

About 25 people were treated for mostly broken bones and internal injuries at the nearest hospital in Bellefontaine, said Laura Miller, a spokesperson for Mary Rutan Hospital.

About a half-dozen residents in Lakeview who were interviewed by The Associated Press said they heard tornado sirens 10 minutes before the storm hit, after they went off ear-

lier.

Weather officials were assessing damage and confirming the tornadoes, counting at least five that touched down in Ohio alone.

In Indiana, a tornado injured 38 people in Winchester, where the mayor said some 130 homes and a Taco Bell restaurant were damaged or destroyed. Three people were in critical condition, but their injuries were not life-threatening, authorities said.

Residents, who said they got plenty of warning to take shelter, picked tree branches and sheet metal from their yards. Shingles littered streets and fields in the town northeast of Indianapolis.

Carey Todd, 55, said the tornado looked like "a bunch of black birds."

Across from a church that was destroyed, a hymnal was blown open to No. 118, "Shelter in Time of Storm."

Mayor Bob McCoy said he and his wife hunkered in a closet. "I've never heard that sound before; I don't want to hear it again," McCoy said.

West of Winchester, officials said as many as half the structures in the town of Selma, population 750, might have been damaged. Only minor injuries were reported, emergency officials said in a news release.

Marriages in the US are back to pre-pandemic levels, CDC says

By **MIKE STOBBE**
AP Medical Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. marriages have rebounded to pre-pandemic levels with nearly 2.1 million in 2022.

That's a 4% increase from the year before. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released the data Friday, but has not released marriage data for last year.

In 2020, the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic, there were 1.7 million U.S. weddings the lowest number recorded since 1963. The pandemic threw many marriage plans into disar-

ray, with communities ordering people to stay at home and banning large gatherings to limit the spread of COVID-19.

Marriages then rose in 2021, but not to pre-pandemic levels. They ticked up again in 2022 and surpassed 2019 marriage statistics by a small margin.

New York, the District of Columbia and Hawaii saw the largest increases in marriages from 2021 to 2022. Nevada home to Las Vegas' famous wedding chapels continued to have the highest marriage rate in the nation, though it slightly

decreased from 2021. The number and rate of U.S. divorces in 2022 fell slightly, continuing a downward trend, the CDC said.

Overall, marriages remain far less common than they once were in the U.S. According to data that goes back to 1900, weddings hit their height in 1946, when the marriage rate was 16.4 per 1,000 people. The rate was above 10 in the early 1980s before beginning a decades-long decline. In 2022, the marriage rate was 6.2 per 1,000 population.



A couple holds hands as they are married by a county clerk during a Valentine's Day group wedding ceremony on the steps of the Dade County Courthouse in Miami, Wednesday, Feb. 14, 2024.

Associated Press

Germany, France and Poland vow to procure more weapons for Ukraine in a show of unity

By **GEIR MOULSON** and
VANESSA GERA
Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — Germany, France and Poland vowed Friday to procure more weapons for Kyiv and step up production of military equipment along with partners in Ukraine, promising that Ukraine can rely on the trio of European powers as it tries to overcome a shortage of military resources. German Chancellor Olaf Scholz welcomed French President Emmanuel Macron and Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk for a hastily arranged summit of the so-called "Weimar Triangle" of the three countries. The meeting came as Russia votes in an election that is all but certain to extend President Vladimir Putin's rule. Scholz said he discussed what support is needed now with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Thursday.

"He knows that he can rely on us, and we are renewing this signal for support for Kyiv from here today," he said after the meeting. "But a crystal-clear signal also goes to Moscow the Russian president should know that we won't let up in our



German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, center, French President Emmanuel Macron, left, and Poland's Prime Minister Donald Tusk shake hands at a press conference in Berlin, Germany, Friday, March 15, 2024.

support for Ukraine."

Kyiv's forces are hoping for more military supplies from Ukraine's Western partners, but in the meantime, they are struggling against a bigger and better-provisioned Russian army that is pressing hard at some front-line points in Ukraine. The European Union's plans to produce 1 million artillery rounds for Ukraine have

fallen well short, while aid for Ukraine is being held up in the United States by political differences.

The German leader said that "starting immediately, we will procure even more weapons for Ukraine, on the overall world market."

"Secondly, the production of military equipment will be expanded, including though cooperation with

partners in Ukraine," Scholz added. And he said that a new "coalition for long-range rocket artillery" will be set up, underlining a pledge made at a conference in Paris last month. Scholz gave no details, and the three leaders took no questions. Macron reaffirmed France's support for a Czech-initiated plan to buy ammunition and

shells outside the European Union, but also gave no details.

"We want to spend our money, we want to help in every possible way ... here and now, so that the situation of Ukraine in the coming weeks and months gets better, not worse," Tusk said. Kyiv's forces are hoping for more military supplies from Ukraine's Western partners, but in the meantime, they are struggling against a bigger and better-provisioned Russian army that is pressing hard at some front-line points in Ukraine. The European Union's plans to produce 1 million artillery rounds for Ukraine have fallen well short, while aid for Ukraine is being held up in the United States by political differences.

"This is a serious moment," Macron said. "A new era is dawning, and we'll be there. And the fact that the three of us are united on this day, determined with the same lucidity about the situation in Ukraine and determined never to let Russia win and to support the Ukrainian people to the end, is a strength for us, our peoples, our security and our Europe." □

Associated Press

Congo reinstates the death penalty after more than 20 years as it struggles to deal with militants

DAKAR, Senegal (AP) — Congo has lifted a more than two-decade-old moratorium on the death pen-

alty as authorities struggle to curb violence and militant attacks in the country, according to a justice min-

istry statement released on Friday.

The statement, dated earlier this week, said the ban from 2003 allowed offenders accused of treason and espionage to get away without proper punishment. Eastern Congo has been riddled by conflict for decades, linked to more than 120 armed groups fighting for land and power and in some cases, protecting their communities.

The government said the violence in the east has plagued the country with recurrent conflict and resulted in a surge of attacks that have spread terror among the communities.

In recent years, the M23

rebel group — the most dominant in the region with alleged links to neighboring Rwanda — has continued to attack villages, forcing many to flee to Goma, the region's largest city. M23 has laid siege to several communities with about half of North Kivu province under its control.

The violence in the province has worsened in recent weeks as security forces battle the rebels. Residents have said the group's fighter mostly launch attacks with bombs out of hills overlooking remote towns.

In its statement, the justice ministry said capital punishment will be reserved for offenders involved in crimi-

nal conspiracies, armed gangs, insurrection — and also those who commit treason and war crimes. It will also be applied to the military, including those who rebel or desert and join enemy ranks.

Rights groups have condemned the decision, calling it a step back for the country.

"This initiative is against the constitution," said Jean-Claude Katende, president of the African Association for Human Rights. "We don't think that capital punishment and the execution of this sentence are appropriate measures to restore order." □



Soldiers accused of rape and crimes against humanity slouch in their chairs during a military tribunal in the town of Baraka, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Feb. 16, 2011.

Associated Press

Brazil's military leaders told police Bolsonaro was involved in plan to reverse 2022 election result

By MAURICIO SAVARESE
 and ELÉONORE HUGHES

Associated Press

SAO PAULO (AP) — Top Brazilian military leaders declared to police that former President Jair Bolsonaro presented them a plan to reverse the results of the 2022 election he lost, but they refused and warned him they would arrest him if he tried it, according to judicial documents released Friday.

The testimonies of Bolsonaro's former Army and Air Force commanders to police, and released by the Supreme Court, include the first direct mentions of the right-wing leader as actively participating in a conspiracy to ignore the results of the October 2022 election won by his rival, current President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva.

The statements by military commanders during Bolsonaro's term add to his legal woes as prosecutors seek to find links between the far-right leader and the Jan. 8, 2023 riots that trashed government buildings in capital Brasilia one week after Lula's inauguration.

A federal police report said former army com-



Former President Jair Bolsonaro addresses supporters during a rally in Sao Paulo., Brazil, Sunday, Feb. 25, 2024.

Associated Press

mander Marco Antônio Freire Gomes testified that he and other top military leaders attended several last-minute and unscheduled meetings at the presidential palace after the second round of the elections "in which then-President Jair Bolsonaro offered possibilities of using legal tools... regarding the electoral process."

Gen. Freire Gomes told federal police that in one of the gatherings Bolsonaro told the three commanders of his military and his then-Defense Secretary Paulo Sérgio Nogueira he wanted to create a commission to "investigate the confirmation and the legality of the electoral process." He added other tools could be used, such as issuing a

decree to declare a state of siege. Freire Gomes said he rejected the idea from the start and told Bolsonaro that such a move "could end in the in the legal responsibility of the then-president," according to the federal police document. The Brazilian general also declared to police he "always made it clear to the then-president that, under

the conditions at the time, there was no possibility of reversing the result of the elections from a military standpoint."

Former Air Force commander Brig. Carlos de Almeida Baptista Júnior also told federal police he rejected Bolsonaro's electoral moves. He added that he believes that Gen. Freire Gomes' rebuke was key to stopping Bolsonaro from seeking the reverse the elections result.

"If the commander (Freire Gomes) had agreed, possibly, a coup d'etat attempt would have taken place," the federal police document quotes Baptista Jr. as saying. "Gen. Freire Gomes said that if such move was attempted he would have to arrest the president," the police document reads.

Baptista Jr. also told the federal police that Almir Garnier, the former commander of Brazil's Navy, "said he would put his troops at Jair Bolsonaro's disposal," according to the document.

Bolsonaro has denied that he and his supporters attempted a coup when rioters assaulted government buildings a year ago.

European charity ship rescues 135 migrants but is assigned to distant port in Italy with 359 aboard

ROME (AP) — The European charity ship Ocean Viking said Friday it rescued an-

other 135 migrants, including a pregnant woman and eight children, from a dou-

ble-decker boat in Maltese search-and-rescue waters. In total, the vessel operated by the humanitarian group SOS Mediterranée was carrying 359 shipwreck survivors, it said, adding the ship had been assigned to the distant port at Ancona, in Italy's central Marche region.

"Such a long navigation should never be imposed on persons rescued at sea," the rescue organization wrote on X, formerly Twitter.

Non-governmental organizations operating in the central Mediterranean Sea have repeatedly warned that the far-right-led Italian government's policy of as-

signing ports farther north keeps their rescue ships out of waters where they can be saving lives.

Migrants, mostly from the Middle East and Africa, often flee war and poverty in their own countries in search of a better life in European nations via the Mediterranean Sea.

Rome has recently ordered the ships to port after each rescue, punishing groups that conduct other rescues by holding ships in port for 20 days at a time.

The Ocean Viking has been subject to three such blocks over three months, the most recently from Feb. 8 until a judge lifted the block 10 days later.

Friday's rescue came a day after survivors saved from a deflating rubber dinghy in the central Mediterranean on Thursday reported that some 60 people who departed from Libya with them more than a week ago had perished during the journey.

The Ocean Viking spotted the dinghy with 25 people on board Wednesday. Two were unconscious and were evacuated to the Sicilian island of Lampedusa, some 60 miles (97 kilometers) to the north. The other 23 were in serious condition, exhausted, dehydrated and with burns from fuel on board the boat.



The rescue personnel of the SOS Mediterranée's humanitarian ship Ocean Viking attend migrants rescued from a deflating rubber dinghy in the Central Mediterranean Sea, Wednesday, March 13, 2024.

Associated Press

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Game 7	Letter T	\$300
Game 8	Full Card	\$1000

Did you know about...?

The history and meaning of the Aruban florin

(Oranjestad)—Aruba Today is proud to officially introduce a new segment called **Did you know about...?**, where we dive into some (historical) facts of Aruba, its culture and way of living. In this first edition, we look back at the Aruban florin: its history, design and symbolism.

In Aruba, we know the 5, 10, 25 and 50 cent coins, along with the 1 and 5 Florin coin. Aruban Florin bills include the 10, 25, 50, 100, and rarely, the 200 bills. In Papiamentu we call our currency Florin, but the umbrella term for money is placa. Cents are called cen (pronounced: seng), both in the singular and plural form. Most coins are circular and their size depend on their worth. However, the 50 cent coin is easily recognizable by their square shape, as is the 5 Florin coin by their golden color. Every coin has the Aruban emblem carved on it, with the other side displaying the worth of the coin. The bigger 1 and 5 florin coins, however, contain the carving of the emblem on one side, while displaying the side profile of the Dutch king, Willem-Alexander, on the other side. When his mother, Princess Beatrix, was reigning queen, it was her profile that was carved on the two coins.



Outdated Aruban coins and their names
In the past, Aruban coins had distinctive names and also varied in worth. For example, a 5-cent coin was once called Dos placa; 10-cent coins were called debchi; 25-cent coins were called diez placa and the 50-cent coin was once called Yotin (pronounced: jo-teen). We also used a distinctive coins worth 2 ½ cents, called placa too. However, this last coin is no longer in use and has become a relic of Aruban money. Back then, the 5-Florin coin used to also be square, but now it is circular.

Aruban bills: their design and symbolism
The Aruban Florin collection contains a variation of colorful bills, displaying incredibly de-



tailed and beautiful designs that tell the story of Aruba on a single piece of paper.

Prior to 2019, the Aruban Florin bills were relatively simpler in design compared to now, but still included beautiful designs and colors, often depicting local animals. These past designs were made by the Aruban artist Everino Fingal in 1990 up to 2019. Between 1990 and 1993, the 5 Florin coin was a bill. The Fingal designs also included a 500-Florin bill, which has now been discontinued.

In 2019, the Central Bank of Aruba commissioned a new design of the Aruba Florin bills, this time selecting artist and former art teacher, Nigel Matthew, to present his new design. Matthew kept the tradition of including local animals and the familiar colors on the bills. However, he included additional designs that represent the Aruban culture and link to the Indigenous inhabitants that were the first to set foot on the island.

Current design and symbolism

10 florin

On the 10-florin bill, you can see a Turtuga blanco (white turtle). The blue color symbolizes the blue Caribbean Sea. You can also see the ruins of the Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins, a coral motif, and the symbols of Cas Floria (traditional Aruban house design) with a piece of mosaic.

25 florin

On this orange bill, you can see an Aruban medicinal plant called Shoshoro. The birds Trupiaal, Shoco, rock drawings, and the symbols of Cas Floria with a piece of mosaic are also depicted. There is also a Purun di ceramica (clay

pot), in reference to the relics left behind by our indigenous ancestors.

50 florin

On this bill, we see the Cododo (blue lizard found on the ABC islands), Cangreu di tera (land crab), Willem III Tower, and again the symbols of Cas Floria with a piece of mosaic, as well as a beach plant called Banana di rif. The colors are pink/purple.

100 florin

This bill is green in color, representing nature. Here we see the Yuwana (Iguana), Aloe, Toteki (lizard), the symbols of Cas Floria with a piece of mosaic, and a dance group performing the Baile di cinta (folkloric dance with silk ribbons).

200 florin

There is another bill with a value of 200 dollars. The brown color symbolizes the earth of Aruba. Here we see the Dornasol and the Warawara—both local birds, along with the symbols of Cas Floria with a piece of mosaic, the Tuna cactus plant, and the Caha di orgel (folkloric instrument, used for many traditional songs).

Extra fact:

the word “florin” supposedly is named after the Italian city of Florence or it's a reference to the Italian word “florino”, both explanations related to historical Italian currencies.

Source: Placa, placa, placa by the National Library of Aruba



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Aruba's Nature is to be Cherished

ST. CRUZ — The national park Arikok comprises almost 18 % of the island. Its rugged terrain, desert-like hills filled with tall cacti, breathtaking coastline and protected local flora and fauna welcome you to be explored. There is numerous wild-life to discover like for example the sea turtle who lays his eggs on the park's beaches. There are more places on the island that are a preserved area like the Bubali Plas which is a bird sanctuary.

The national park Arikok takes you on a memorable journey of the islands past offering unique geological, cultural and historical sites. These can all be enjoyed and explored either on your own or during guided tours. A wide variety of educational and informative programs and fun activities is available.

Did you know that four of the in total seven species of sea turtle lay their eggs on Aruba's beaches? In the national park, a Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum*) keeps a strict eye on a very special event taking place below on the beach: a majestic Leatherback (*Dermochelys*



coriacea) heads back to sea after laying her eggs, while another nest laid 2 months ago by the same female hatches. A very rare occurrence of daytime nesting and hatching. Sea turtles prefer nesting in the cool and dark hours of the night. And hatchlings usually wait for the cue of cooling surface sand before emerging.

Bubali Magic

This beautiful close-up image of the pink bird is courtesy of Michiel Oversteegen of the Aruba Bird-

life Conservation. This important foundation showcases and builds awareness of Aruba's birds and other native flora and fauna. You may have seen a 'pink cloud' lately at the Bubali or Spanish Lagoon Wetlands areas? It's most likely to be Roseate Spoonbills (*Ajaia ajaia*) or 'Chucharon Cora' as they are known in Papiamentu. This unusual looking bird forages in shallow muddy water while sweeping its flattened bill from side to side

to catch small fish, crustaceans and other aquatic invertebrates. The Roseate Spoonbill remains an uncommon sight as they are vulnerable to degradation of feeding and nesting habitats (Wetlands). (Source: arikok national park)

The aforementioned is just a part of what Aruba's nature has to offer. We cannot stress enough to go, see for yourself. The island has the most beautiful beaches but it is also worthwhile to go beyond this and get an idea of our entire island. Lately there is a discussion going on about the effect certain activities have on our nature, for example the ATV vehicles cause a lot of dust, noise and leave tire tracks. Animals live in these areas where the vehicles run, often with high speed and with detrimental consequences to flora and fauna. Motorized vehicles are forbidden to drive on the sand dunes in the Northern part of the island and all beaches in Aruba are forbidden for any motorized vehicle. Treasure our island to enjoy it like you do: as a tropical and natural paradise. We truly appreciate it!



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Celebrate the Aruban National Anthem and Flag Day local style!

(Oranjestad)—On Monday, March 18th, Aruba is celebrating its National Anthem and Flag Day, also known as our independence day. Throughout the past two week, Aruba Today has shared some of the history and important meaning of this national holiday, and now we want to invite you to come celebrate this special day with us.

The whole day will be filled with fun activities, ranging from games, music, dance and even food! Here are a couple activities that you could add to your Anthem and Flag itinerary this weekend:

March 17th:

1. Cultural manifestation at Plaza Betico Croes (Vondellaan). Starting at 6 pm to 11pm this Saturday, the Aruban community will celebrate our independence day with the cultural manifestation. Come enjoy our local music, dance per-



formances and local food and arts and crafts.

2. Car Show at Nikkie Habibe Plaza. Starting from 10 am, come and see a collection of beautiful vintage cars at the end of the main street in Oranjestad.

March 18th:

3. National Anthem and Flag Parade. Early in the morning, the Aruban community gathers in front of the Plaza Betico (Vondellaan) to see a range of

groups of civil society like boys/girls scouts, the police academy, and even various sports clubs and federations, marching in line commemorating our independence day. This event begins at 9am.

4. Miniature Boat Racing at Governor's Bay Beach. Watch miniature boats go against each other on the windy shallow beach of Governor's Bay Beach. This event starts at 9am.



5. Fort Zoutman. The Fort Zoutman situated in front of the Renaissance Market Place will organize a fair filled with traditional food, live music, local-made craft and more. Other places that will organize similar activities include the Archeological Museum in Oranjestad; Kulture Café in San Nicolas; the National Library of Aruba; University of Aruba; Cas di Cultura and more.

March 23rd/24th:

6. Horse Galloping competition at Villa Florolina (Moko).

There are many more events around the island that you can attend to get a taste of the Aruban culture on this special day. Just ask your hotel receptionist or taxi driver; they know where the hot spots are!



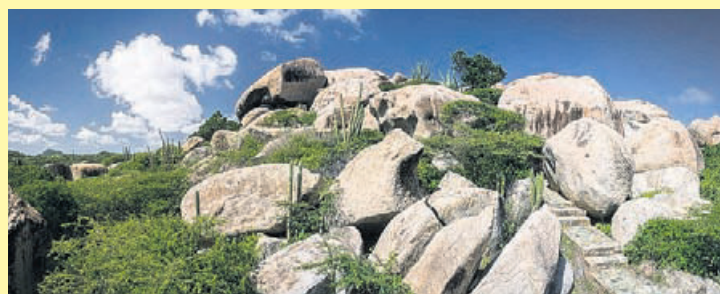
Ayo & Casibari: Aruba's famous rock formations

(Oranjestad)—The Ayo and Casibari Rock Formations are known locally as one of the crucial sites to have in your “off-road” trip itinerary. These naturally formed rock formations as just one of the few places on the island that hold a rich history of our culture and of our ancestors.

Ayo
The Ayo Rock Formation is located in the northern part of the island, right on the road that leads you to the Black Stone Beach, and close to the Natural Bridge. The Ayo is a fenced terrain that consists of several giant boulders, resting neatly on top of or side by side each other, adding gorgeous natural architecture to the surrounding

“mondi”*. This is also one of the few sites to contain prehistoric markings of our indigenous ancestors. The Ayo Rock formation contains stairs that lead you to the top of the highest boulder, offering a breathtaking view of the Aruban backyard. The Ayo is usually quiet, as it is situated farther away from the busier parts of the island. However, this is just another charm of the site: the quiet area and the refreshing breeze offer a sense of comfort and peace.

Casibari
Probably the busier rock formation site, the Casibari is situated more in the center of the island, much closer—and more accessible—to the general pub-



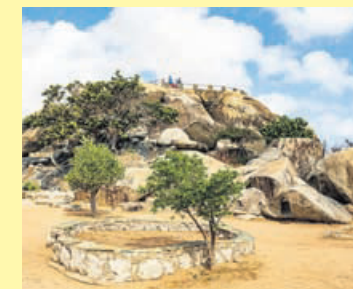
lic. Just like Ayo, Casibari is a fenced area containing several boulders that lay on top or lean on each other. The best aspect of the Casibari Rock Formation is the accompanying view when you climb up the top of the round, flat bolder. For this position, you can see the majority of the island and the ocean in the south. Right in front of the entrance, there is the Casibari Café and Grill, a great place to get refreshments and snack before continu-

ing your off-road adventure!

Both sites are open free to the public, 24 hours a day. However, unless you are taking a trip with a professional tour guide, there are no guides at the sites to help you climb the rock. So, do be careful when

trudging on the boulders, and make sure to befriend any roaming goats you see along the way!

*Mondi: what we call our Aruban wilderness. We don't have forests, or deserts, but we do have mondi!



Celebrate Aruba's National Flag and Anthem Day at Paseo Herencia

Palm Beach, March 16 - Paseo Herencia is thrilled to announce its exciting lineup of activities to commemorate Aruba's National Flag and Anthem Day on Monday, March 18th. This annual celebration promises to bring the community together for a night filled with local entertainment, delicious local snacks, drinks and a captivating waltzing water show.

Experience the Culture:
Families and guests of all ages are invited to enjoy the vibrant cultural heritage of Aruba during our National Anthem & Flag Day event. The festivities kick off at 6:30 PM with a demonstration of the traditional “Kaha di Orgel,” a cylinder piano, located near the mall entrance next to Maggy's. Be captivated by local singing and dance performances, featuring the winners of various Cultural competitions during the live cultural show on stage at 7 PM, followed by the Cultural Watershow set to the music of the Legendary Padu del Caribe at 8:30 PM.

Get A Taste of Aruba:
Savor a culinary journey through our island's flavors.

Sink your teeth into Cashew or Walnuts Rum Cake from Drunk's Denial, savor Shrimp Pastechis at Sexy Shrimps, and indulge in the Arubiano Snack Box or Fried Funchi with cheese at The HotBox. Wash it down with an Aruba Ariba Cocktail from Che Bar and dig into Quesillo pastry from TGI Fridays.

Local Rum Tasting:
For just \$10 at Sexy Shrimps, indulge in a sampling of five different types of rum: White Rum, Spice, Coconut, Shimaruku and Pistachio.

Enjoy Kids' Activities
Let the little ones unleash their creativity at the Kids Painting Corner at the Aruba Artist Gallery. Located near the mall entrance next to King Churro's, children can enjoy coloring activities from 6 PM to 10 PM.

Join us at Paseo Herencia on Monday, March 18th to celebrate Aruba's National Flag and Anthem Day. For more information and event updates, visit our website www.paseoherencia.com or follow us on social media.





Specials & Activities on
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NATIONAL FLAG & ANTHEM DAY

MONDAY, MARCH 18

★ CULTURAL FOOD & DRINKS	★ CULTURAL SHOW 7PM	★ LOCAL SPECIALS
★ PAINTING STATION	★ KAHA DI ORGEL	★ WATERSHOW 8:30PM

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The district of Savaneta

A quick history guide to the island's first capital

(Oranjestad)—Before Oranjestad became the island nation's capital, Aruba's first capital was the district of Savaneta. Here is where the cultural identity of Aruba was born, and from where the rest of the island developed into what it is today.

Savaneta is said to have been the first place where the Caquetio inhabitants first stepped foot on the island. Though there isn't hard evidence to back this up, but considering the legend of the Cacique Arua, it is believed that there were already movements on Aruba—and Savaneta—around 88 AD.

The Caquetios probably made their way to the island either from Venezuela, Colombia or other Caribbean islands in the region, but with good weather it was relatively easy for them to travel back and forth in their canoes. So, since the Caquetios discovered the island, Aruba found her first form of civilization.

It wasn't until 1499 when Aruba met another group of people who set foot on the island: the Spanish explorer Alonso de Ojeda. De Ojeda first took notice of Aruba off the coast of Venezuela, during his exploration of the Latin American country. This was on August 9th, 1499. However, de Ojeda didn't actually sail to the island till 4 days later, on August 23rd, 1499. This was the beginning of the Spanish era on Aruba (1499-1636).

Alonso usually didn't stop at every island or land he saw, especially not in the Caribbean. He would often take notice of land from afar and continue sailing. However, Aruba was an exception. He had



heard that there were “quebracho” trees on the island, which were commonly used to produce dye or paint. But since these trees could not be found in Savaneta, he continued to search in the area of what is now known as Santa Cruz. The best way to transport the tree barks was via a route passing through Savaneta, and so the first road between Savaneta and Santa Cruz was made.

The Dutch colonial era (1636-1805) During the 80-year war between The Netherlands and Spain, Dutch explorers and merchants began to travel to the ABC islands. Once they landed in Aruba, they deported the small Arawakan and Spanish community that was living on the island. This was the beginning of colonization of the ABC islands by the Dutch empire. Around the same, the West Indian Company (WIC) was born. Bonaire and Curaçao were mostly used for plantations, where the Dutch had transported slaves from Africa. Aruba, on the other hand, was mostly used to raise cattle and to house the haring factory. The Dutch had often forced the indigenous community to work for them. In 1636, when the Netherlands won the war against Spain, the country surrendered the islands to the Dutch.

The Dutch administration appointed the island's first commander, an Irish man named N. Williams. Because the Dutch were interested in other Caribbean islands and countries in South America, they imported Dutch merchants and business

men, all of whom resided in Savaneta. This way, Savaneta officially became the island's first capital.

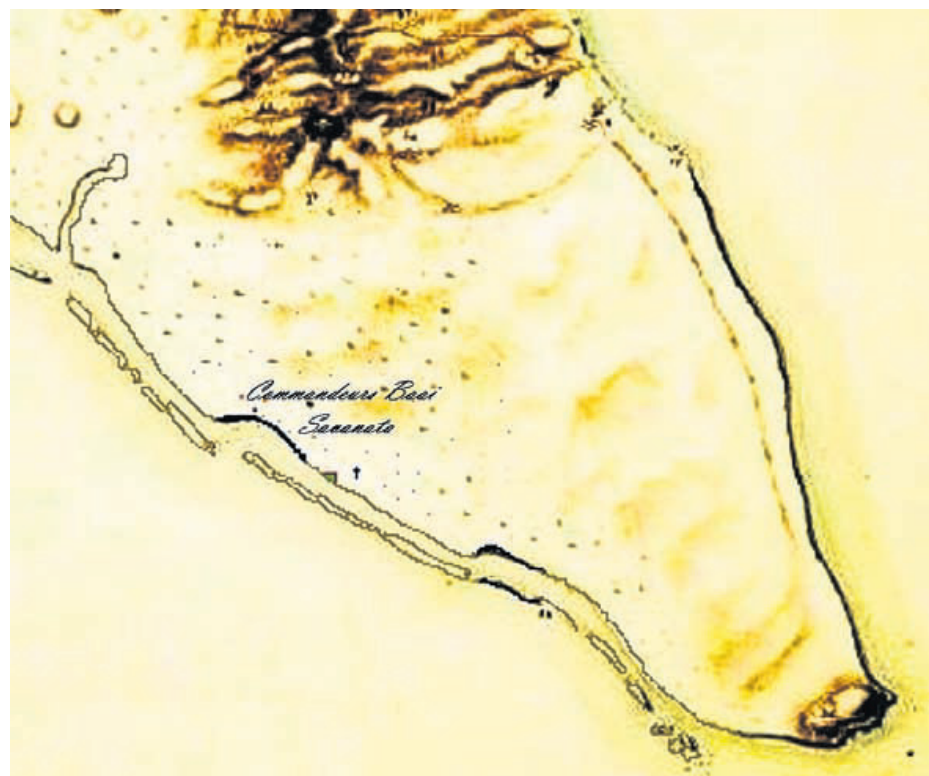
However, at the end of the 18th century, the commander at the time, J.R. Lauffer, moved his office to what is now “Horse Bay” in Oranjestad. Because the highest office on the island moved away from Savaneta, the capital lost its title to what was called then Playa.

How Savaneta got its name

The name Savaneta probably has a Spanish origin. It was said that when the Spanish climbed a hill called Yara, they saw that the area was mostly open and had no big trees. In Spanish, such a land area is called a “sabana”.

Because of its land surface, Savaneta was a great place to construct cattle farms. From here, the farmer culture on Aruba was born. Before the Aruban Gold Rush and the construction of the Refinery in San Nicolas, most residents were farmers, and Savaneta had many inhabitants that farmed fruits and vegetables. They also continued the tradition of raising cattle, like goat, sheep, pigs and horses. Savaneta was one of the first places on the island to have a general farming culture. From this culture, many other traditions were born, like the Dera Gay Holiday that we celebrate every year on June 24th.

Source: Historia di Savaneta (History of Savaneta) by Adolf “Dufi” Kock.



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

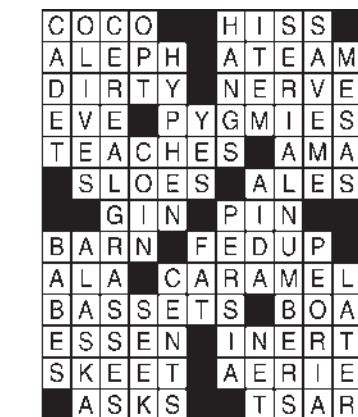
ACROSS

- 1 Flock fathers
- 5 "Shucks!"
- 9 Copycat's cry
- 10 Less cordial
- 12 Distant
- 13 Pound parts
- 14 First aid kit item
- 16 Beat walker
- 17 Season on the Seine
- 18 Colorful kerchief
- 20 Reduce
- 22 Tennis's Roddick
- 23 Award for mystery writers
- 25 Church area
- 28 Campaign tactics
- 32 Old Western villain
- 34 Finger count
- 35 Quarter-back Manning
- 36 Irish wailer
- 38 Uses a VCR
- 40 Fielder's aid
- 41 Martin of movies

- 42 Mesopotamian region
- 43 Serpent's spot
- 44 Casual tops

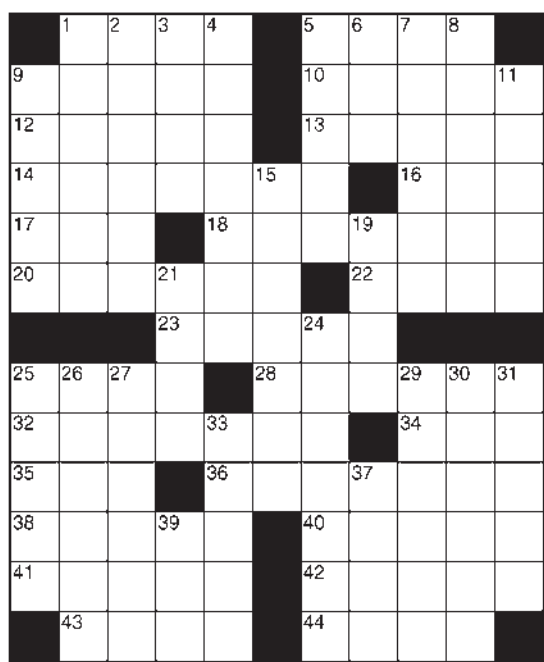
DOWN

- 1 Feel empathy
- 2 Makes amends
- 3 State of mind
- 4 Guest's sack
- 5 Turn red, maybe
- 6 Serving feat
- 7 Part of a primitive phone
- 8 Minute part



Yesterday's answer

- 9 "Only Murders in the Building" role
- 11 Settle, as a debt
- 15 Rap style
- 19 Be bold
- 21 Canary snack
- 24 In the middle of
- 25 Aids illegally
- 26 Sense of taste
- 27 Made malicious remarks
- 29 Comfortable
- 30 "John Wick" star
- 31 Display disdain
- 33 "Ghosts" playwright
- 37 Turn
- 39 Planning time



3-16

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

3-16 CRYPTOQUOTE

WN NWL TJJELSFTHLB HGL QLEU

B J L S F T K Z L W F P B N Y U N P E

SNWQLEBTHFNW T B T V N Z V N L B .

— S G E F B H N J G L E X N E K L U

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: MARCH BUSTLES IN ON WINDY FEET AND SWEEPS MY DOORSTEP AND MY STREET. — SUSAN REINER

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic—but important—information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

Electrical power

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.



Drinking water

The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

Supermarket hours

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to



9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

Safety

Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occur, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

Cruise Schedule

SAT	09	STAR PRIDE	06.00	18.00	1
TUE	12	SILVER DAWN	08.00	23.00	1
		SYMPHONY OF THE SEAS	08.00	21.00	1
		RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS	08.00	****	1
WED	13	ROTTERDAM	08.00	17.00	1
		GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS	16.00	****	1
		RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS - Dept.	****	18.00	
THU	14	NORWEGIAN SKY	08.00	20.00	1
		MSC DIVINA	07.00	14.00	1
		GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS - Dept	****	18.00	
FRI	15	SEVEN SEAS SPLENDOR	07.00	18.00	1
		WIND SPIRIT	10.00	23.00	1
SAT	16	AIDAPERLA	08.00	18.00	1
SUN	17	CELEBRITY BEYOND	08.00	23.00	1
		CELEBRITY SUMMIT	10.00	23.30	1

Pharmacies

Aloe	584-4606	Del Pueblo	582-1253	Di Servicio Noord	586-4606
4 Centro Medico	584-5794	Eagle	587-9011	Oduber	582-1780
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Businesses are ready for April's total solar eclipse with celestial-themed doughnuts and beer



Cleveland-based Market Garden Brewery has partnered with Midwest grocery chain Heinen's to sell cans of hazy IPA called "The Totality," shown in this photo, ahead of the total solar eclipse on April 8, 2024.

Associated Press

By **WYATTE GRANTHAM-PHILIPS**

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Eclipse-themed beer. Jewelry and ornaments. And doughnuts that capture the sun's disappearing act with the help of buttercream frosting.

With April 8's total solar eclipse right around the corner, businesses are ready for the celestial event that will dim skies along a generous path across North America.

There are oodles of special eclipse safety glasses for sale, along with T-shirts emblazoned with clever slogans and other souvenirs — just like the last time the U.S. got a big piece of the total solar eclipse action in

2017.

Hotels and resorts along the prime path are luring in visitors with special packages and Southwest and Delta are selling seats on eclipse-viewing flights. Cities, museums and parks are staging watch parties to draw in tourists as well as residents.

"This is a special event and ... the travel industry certainly is in a very good spot," said Jie Zhang, a marketing professor at the University of Maryland's business school. She also noted the eclipse craze arrives at a time when consumers are continuing to ramp up spending on new experiences.

Closer to eclipse day, there are likely to be more spe-

cial products and promotions from national brands springing up, like Moon Pie's "eclipse survival kit," made up of four mini versions of the chocolate snack and two pairs of eclipse glasses.

Small businesses within the eclipse's 115-mile-wide (185-kilometer-wide) path of totality appear to be leading the charge so far. Online shops and local vendors have put together a full array of creative, limited-edition merchandise: earrings, baby onesies, or-

naments, games, banners and more.

Some towns and business owners have been anticipating the celestial event and huge crowds for years. After the 2017 eclipse, "I marked my calendar," said Sam McNulty, co-founder of Market Garden Brewery in Cleveland, which is in the eclipse path this time and will see nearly four minutes of dimmed skies. □

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WK 52 Ocean View \$65,000
WK 7 and 14 - all views

GOLD SEASON

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2 Bed Ocean view \$9,000
2 Bed Garden view \$7,000
3 Bed Ocean view \$16,500

Marriott Aruba Ocean Club PLATINUM SEASON

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2 Bed Ocean view \$27,000
1 Bed Ocean front \$22,000
1 Bed Ocean View \$17,500
GOLD SEASON
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San Nicolas

Imsan 24 hours
Tel.524 8833

PHARMACY ON DUTY

Oranjestad:

Sta. Anna : Tel.586 8181
Aloe:Tel. 584 4606

OTHER

Dental Clinic 587 9850
Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002
Urgent Care 586 0448
Walk-In Doctor's Clinic
+297 588 0539

EMERGENCY

Police	100
Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

TRAVEL INFO

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American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

AID FOUNDATIONS

FAVI- Visually Impaired
Tel. 582 5051

Alcoholics Anonymous
Tel. 736 2952

Narcotics Anonymous
Tel. 583 8989

Fundacion Contra Violencia
Relacional Tel. 583 5400

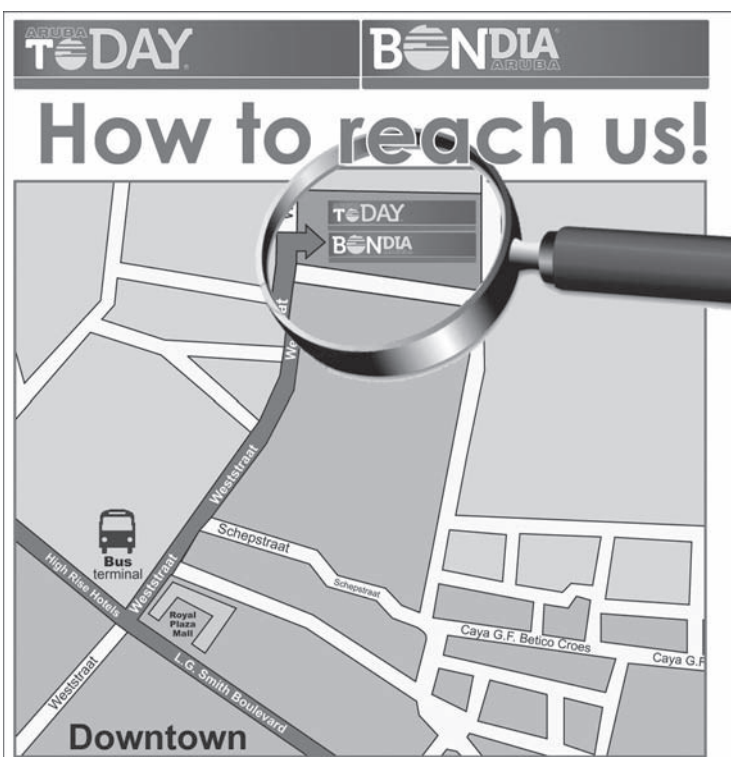
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'Manhunt,' about hunt for John Wilkes Booth, may make you wish you paid attention in history class

By ALICIA RANCILIO
Associated Press

A new series transforms the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln into a true crime thriller that goes deeper into the story than most textbooks.

Most who studied Lincoln in school learn he was assassinated by a man named John Wilkes Booth. Lincoln was watching a play with his wife, Mary Todd Lincoln, at Ford's Theatre when Booth came from behind and shot him.

What isn't as widely remembered is that Booth killed the president just five days after the surrender of Confederate General Robert E. Lee effectively ended the Civil War. It was a pre-planned, coordinated attack on the president, Vice President Andrew Johnson and the Secretary of State. Only Booth was successful. A Confederate sympathizer, Booth relied on a network of supporters to help him hide. Edwin Stanton, the Secretary of War, led the search by the Army to track Lincoln's killer down. He was found 12 days later hiding in a barn where he was shot and killed.

"Manhunt," debuting Friday on Apple TV+, dramatizes the hunt for Booth and the trial that followed. It's based on the book "Manhunt: The 12-Day Chase for Lincoln's Killer" by James L.



This image released by Apple TV+ shows Lily Taylor, left, and Hamish Linklater in a scene from "Manhunt."

Swanson. Tobias Menzies stars as Stanton, who also helped convict Booth's conspirators.

"Most no one knows the details of this story unless they've done a Ph.D or it's a special interest of theirs," said creator-showrunner Monica Beletsky in a recent interview. Bringing Stanton to life is exciting, said Menzies, because he had a close, respected relationship with Lincoln.

"A big part of Stanton's journey is both a political loss and also a personal loss. He loses a friend. ... I

studied very little American history, and I certainly didn't do this period of history," said Menzies.

"As an actor, I've done quite a lot of period stuff and I find it enjoyable to get the chance to find out about a new part of these stories and this is a really good example of that. "Truth is stranger than fiction."

Anthony Boyle plays Booth and his awareness of the man began with an episode of "The Simpsons" where Bart portrayed him in a school play. He knew

his research needed to dig deeper to understand Booth's psyche and read letters he had written between the ages of 15 until his death at 26. Boyle describes them as a "descent into madness."

Beletsky hopes "Manhunt" underscores how Lincoln's killing was especially shocking at the time.

"That kind of murder was so uncommon," she said. "Lincoln famously left the White House door unlocked during the Civil War, even though he had piles of death threats. It wasn't

even imagined that kind of crime could happen in our culture. My costume designer told me that Booth, wearing all black that night, is the origin of villains wearing all black in our storytelling."

There was a boldness and conceit to the way Booth decided to kill Lincoln so publicly in front of an audience that fit his desire for attention.

"The theater was absolutely jammed," said Menzies, a British actor who's starred in "The Crown" and "Outlander." "And then to run out and disappear into the night and then take 12 days to find this man, you couldn't make it up."

Booth was an actor in a family of actors, but lived in the shadow of his older brother Edwin, who was well-respected for his talent. "I'm gonna be the most famous man in the whole world," Booth says on the show, prior to the assassination. While on the run, he reads newspaper articles about himself and loves the attention.

"It was like, Leonardo DiCaprio's brother killed the president," said Hamish Linklater, who plays Lincoln. "I mean, (Edwin) was the biggest celebrity of his time," he said. "This was before the internet and before television, this was word of mouth," added Boyle. □

Riders can climb 'halfway to the stars' on San Francisco cable car dedicated to late Tony Bennett



A cable car dedicated to Tony Bennett makes its way up California Street to Nob Hill in San Francisco, Thursday, March 14, 2024.

Associated Press

By JANIE HAR
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A cable car recently dedicated to the late Tony Bennett rolls past the landmark Fairmont hotel where the singer in 1961 first performed the song that would forever tie him to San Francisco.

San Francisco officials on Valentine's Day dedicated one of the city's iconic cable cars to Bennett, whose "I Left My Heart in San Francisco" included a

line about "the city where little cable cars climb halfway to the stars." He died at age 96 last summer.

The song was an enormous hit and Bennett returned to the city often, even appearing with the late Sen. Dianne Feinstein when she was mayor to toast the rebuild of the cable system in 1984. His statue is on the front lawn of the Fairmont San Francisco and a short street by the hotel is named for him.

The San Francisco Municip-

pal Transportation Agency has 42 cable cars of which four are dedicated to individuals, including baseball's former center fielder Willie Mays, says Arne Hansen, superintendent of cable car vehicle maintenance.

"Some people specifically wait for this car because they want to ride the Tony Bennett cable car just like they want to ride the Willie Mays car, which is Car 24," he said. □



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Clark sets a big target at Players. Scheffler coping with pain in his neck

By DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Fla.

(AP) — Scottie Scheffler had his 25th consecutive round under par Friday in The Players Championship, and this was hard work. He felt pain in his neck that required treatment on the course, and he struggled to swing and to stay within range of Wyndham Clark. Clark was playing in the group behind, oblivious to Scheffler's injury or anything else. He ran off four straight birdies on the front nine and finished with a 7-under 65, one shot short of the 36-hole record at the TPC Sawgrass.

He had a five-shot lead as Rory McIlroy and Xander Schauffele set out in a hot, breezy afternoon to try to catch him. Scheffler was simply happy to be done. He felt something wrong on his fourth full swing of the day, a shot that went left on the par-5 11th that kept him from a good look



Wyndham Clark reacts to a missed putt on the eighth hole during the second round of The Players Championship golf tournament Friday, March 15, 2024, in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla.

Associated Press

at birdie. He got treatment before his tee shots on three straight holes and managed a 3-under 69. "I felt a little something in my neck, and then I tried to hit my tee shot on 12, and that's when I could barely get the

club back," Scheffler said through a PGA Tour official. "So I got some treatment, maybe loosened it up a tiny bit. But most of the day, I was pretty much laboring to get the club somehow away from me."

The hope for Scheffler is he would have free range by the weekend. The concern is that he already was No. 1 in the world and appearing to hit another gear coming off his five-shot victory last week at Bay Hill until this in-

jury interruption.

Clark is proving each week to be a serious challenger no matter Scheffler's condition.

The U.S. Open champion already shot 60 at Pebble Beach to win in 54 holes because of weather, and he was the only player who mounted any challenge against Scheffler at Bay Hill last week, finishing runner-up.

He got through the back nine on another calm, sunny morning in 1 under and then started hitting everything close to perfect a wedge to 18 inches on No. 1, a simple up-and-down for birdie on the par-5 second, a 12-foot birdie putt on the par-3 third and a wedge to 4 feet on the fourth hole. "I'm just super excited that kind of had a ho-hum front nine and then turned and really just got into a nice zone and felt really good on the greens and shot an awesome number," Clark said. □

Bees cause a buzz and lengthy disruption at Indian Wells tennis during Alcaraz vs Zverev match



Bees swarm around a camera during a quarterfinal match at the BNP Paribas Open tennis tournament, Thursday, March 14, 2024, in Indian Wells, Calif.

Associated Press

INDIAN WELLS, Calif. (AP) —

A swarm of bees forced a nearly two-hour disruption to the quarterfinal match between Carlos Alcaraz and Alexander Zverev at the BNP Paribas Open on Thursday.

Alcaraz swatted at the bees buzzing around him before running for cover and the match was suspended 19 minutes in with Alcaraz serving tied at 1-1. The Spaniard went on to win 6-3, 6-1 in less time than the delay of 1 hour, 48 minutes.

Dozens of bees attached

themselves to the overhead spider camera that traverses the court and a man without any protective covering used a vacuum to clean them off.

The players left the court during the delay. When they returned, the chair umpire told them there were still some bees around and Zverev joked that he was fine to play on his side of the court.

The bee vacuumer was summoned back to the court with a spray bottle and was cheered wildly by the crowd. He posed for

selfies with fans, causing Alcaraz and Zverev to laugh as they watched him wander the seats spraying for bees. The man also doused the walls around the court. A bee also landed on a player's towel. Alcaraz expressed ongoing concern that the bees would swarm again on his side, but an ATP Tour supervisor encouraged him to give it a try during the warmup.

Tournament owner and billionaire Larry Ellison and former Microsoft CEO Bill Gates were watching the match from Ellison's box. □

Aaron Donald announces his retirement after a standout 10-year career with the Rams

By **GREG BEACHAM**

AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Aaron Donald spent 10 years flattening quarterbacks, crushing ball-carriers, fighting through perpetual double-teams and generally wrecking NFL offenses. He was relentless, reliable and infinitely resourceful while he led the Los Angeles Rams all the way to a Super Bowl championship. And on Friday, Donald decided a decade of dominance was enough.

The most accomplished defensive lineman of his generation has retired after a stellar 10-year career.

The three-time AP NFL Defensive Player of the Year made his somewhat surprising announcement on social media. He doesn't plan to have a retirement news conference or any public farewell, but his impact on the Rams and the NFL is already indelible.

The 32-year-old Donald spent his entire career with the Rams, who drafted him in the first round in 2014 out of Pitt. The Pittsburgh native was selected for 10 Pro Bowls and eight All-Pro first teams, and he won the award as the league's top defensive player in 2017, 2018 and 2020.

"Throughout my career, I have given my everything to football both mentally and physically 365 days a year was dedicated to becoming the best possible player I could be," Donald said in a statement. "I respected this game like no other, and I'm blessed to be able to conclude my NFL career with the same franchise that drafted me. Not many people get drafted to a team, win a world championship with that team and retire with that team. I do not, and will not, take that for granted."

Although smaller than many top defensive tackles, Donald used his extraordinary athleticism and game savvy to wreak havoc on offenses throughout his career. He was the cornerstone of every Rams defense during his tenure,



Los Angeles Rams defensive tackle Aaron Donald walks out of a tunnel before an NFL football game against the San Francisco 49ers in Santa Clara, Calif., Sunday, Jan. 7, 2024.

Associated Press

drawing habitual double-teams away from his teammates and still racking up a franchise-record 111 sacks, third in the NFL among active players.

After winning the NFL's defensive rookie of the year award in 2014, Donald reached the peak of his stardom after the Rams franchise moved from St. Louis back to Los Angeles in 2016. He had a career-high 20 1/2 sacks in 2018 on the way to his first Super Bowl appearance under coach Sean McVay.

He then played a major role in the Rams' run to a Super Bowl victory three years later, most famously applying the pressure that forced Cincinnati's Joe Burrow to throw incomplete at midfield on the Bengals' final play of Los Angeles' 23-20 victory in Super Bowl 56. After that stop, Donald provided another defining moment of the Rams' championship season by taking off his helmet, pointing to his ring finger and shouting: "Ring me!" His joyous, shirtless ride atop a double-decker bus during the Rams' victory parade in Los Angeles is also an iconic moment in team lore.

"The great players in our league elevate the people around them, and Aaron

has modeled the way for our team as long as I've been with the Rams," McVay said in a statement. "He's an elite competitor, someone who leads by example in a way that's authentic to him, and an exceptional teammate who inspires everyone around him to be the best version of themselves."

Lawrence Taylor and J.J. Watt are the only other players to win the defensive player of the year award three times. Only John Randle (137 1/2) has recorded more sacks than Donald among defensive tackles since sacks became an official statistic in 1982.

Although he spent most of his time away from football living quietly with his wife and four children, Donald's evident greatness and McVay's coaching acumen are the two biggest factors in the Rams' ascent in the Los Angeles sports hierarchy since the team returned home.

During McVay's seven years with Donald, the Rams racked up six winning seasons, five playoff berths, three NFC West titles, two Super Bowl appearances and a ring while winning over many skeptical fans in the nation's second-largest market.

Donald was slated to make over \$34 million this season under the terms of a contract that was renegotiated nearly two years ago. Although Donald had reportedly flirted with retirement for the past two seasons in private, the Rams and Donald hadn't publicly acknowledged his departure was a real possibility.

But over the past two months, Super Bowl-winning defensive coordinator Raheem Morris left for the Atlanta Falcons' head coaching job, and defensive line coach Eric Henderson left for a similar job at Southern California. Henderson and Donald are close friends.

"We are so grateful for Aaron's dedication to greatness and for leading our franchise on and off the field for the past decade," Rams owner Stan Kroenke said. "He has left his mark on generations of football fans and his accomplishments, coupled with his work ethic and passion, continue to inspire his teammates, coaches and athletes across the globe. It is a privilege to have witnessed one of the greatest players of all time, and we are proud that Aaron Donald will forever be part of NFL history as a member of

the Rams."

Donald's offseason training regimen was famously demanding, but he has spoken of his love for that preparation because of the work ethic instilled in him by his father, who transformed Donald from a self-described "lazy little kid" into a dynamo. Donald returned home to Pittsburgh during the Rams' off-seasons, working out at Pitt's Aaron Donald Football Performance Center made possible by his seven-figure donation to his school.

Donald had 543 career tackles, including 176 tackles for loss, and 24 forced fumbles. He had 34 sacks and six sacks in his 11 career postseason games.

Donald also was incredibly durable, missing only six games due to injury in his 10-year career all of them late in the 2022 season when the Rams were already out of playoff contention.

"He meant so much," said linebacker Bobby Wagner, Donald's teammate in 2022. "The real thing was to watch him work, watch him work out."

Not a lot of D-linemen really put in that work in the film room as well as on the field. He was able to do so much in his career, and he's had an amazing career, and I'm excited for whatever he has next. Great human being. Amazing player. One of the greatest."

Only one player is now left on the Rams' roster who also played in St. Louis: Rob Havenstein, who is still the Rams' starting right tackle. □

